DOCKET NO. I20 06741 US CLIENT NO. HWEL01-06741 Customer No. 00128

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Charles Q. Zhan, et al.

Serial No.:

10/717,406

Filed:

November 19, 2003

For:

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING

POSSIBLE DEFECT INDICATORS FOR A VALVE

Group No.:

2863

Examiner:

Toan M. Le

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant submits this statement. This submittal is made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and § 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. The patent and patent publications herein are listed below and on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A.

| U.S. Patent/Publication No. | <u>Inventor</u> | <u>Date</u>       |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| 5,750,879                   | Ohtsuka et al.  | May 12, 1998      |  |
| 2003/0216888 A1             | Ridolfo         | November 20, 2003 |  |
| 2004/0024568 A1             | Eryurek et al.  | February 5, 2004  |  |

**DOCKET NO. I20 06741 US** U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/717,406

Applicant hereby expressly reserves the right to swear behind the effective dates of any of

the above patents and publications and to question the relevance and materiality of the patents and

publications listed herein, in whole, in part, or in combination, subsequent to filing this Information

Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e), the undersigned certifies that no item of information

cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent

office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making

reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three

months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Each item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited by the

Patent Office in a related application in the Office Action mailed November 22, 2004 in U.S. Patent

Application Serial No. 10/717,086.

Further, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) and the above statements, no fee is believed to be

due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Attorney Docket Number

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449/PTO **Application Number** 10/717,406 Filing Date November 19, 2003 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE First Named Inventor Charles Q. Zhan STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Art Unit 2863 (Use as many sheets as necessary) **Examiner Name** Toan M. Le 120 06741 US

Sheet 1

|                       |                          |  |                             | T DOCUMENTS  |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (f known)</sup> | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevan<br>Figures Appear |
|                       | AA                       | <sup>US-</sup> 5,750,879                                 | 05/12/1998                  | Ohtsuka et al.                                     |  |
|                       | AB                       | <sup>US-</sup> 2003/0216888 A1                           | 11/20/2003                  | Ridolfo  |  |
|                       | AC                       | <sup>US-</sup> 2004/0024568 A1                           | 02/05/2004                  | Eryurek et al.                                     |  |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |   |                     |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite<br>No.1 | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication<br>Date | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages |                |
| <del></del>              |              | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY          | ,,   | Or Relevant Figures Appear                        | T <sup>c</sup> |
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| Examiner  | Date       |  |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Signature | Considered |  |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.